GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1641
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Expansion of Atomic Energy
Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)the main problems being faced in expansion of atomic energy in the country;

(b)whether the Government has any mechanism to address the problems of financing, regulating prices, enhancing of skills and transparency in this field; and

(c)if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)The main problems being faced in expansion of nuclear power in the country are availability of resources (finance), land acquisition & associated issues of Rehabilitation &Resettlement (R&R), availability of water and supply chain for nuclear components and equipment.

(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. Financing for long term development of nuclear power in the country is an important consideration for the Government. Recent amendment to Atomic Energy Act has created an enabling provision for NPCIL to seek equity participation by other Central Public Sector Enterprises for nuclear power projects, thus, infusing additional capital in these projects. Further, in the budget proposal for the financial year 2016-17, the Government has announced drawing up a comprehensive plan, spanning next 15 to 20 years, to augment the investment in nuclear power generation and proposed that budgetary allocation up to Rs. 3000 cr. per annum, together with public sector investments will be leveraged to facilitate the required investment for this purpose.

In exercise of powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 22 of the Atomic Energy Act 1962, the Central Government, in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, determines the norms based on which the tariff for sale of electricity by the Atomic Power Stations are determined. These norms are reviewed at regular interval of five years.

As regards skill enhancement, it is an ongoing activity in nuclear power plants and well established facilities for the same are available. In conceptualizing new projects, the aspect of localization is given due emphasis to enable utilisation of existing skills available in India and for creating new skills.

Efforts in public outreach have been enhanced to bring the awareness of nuclear power technologies and thus addressing public concerns in a simple and credible manner. Mechanisms are in place to share all important happenings in nuclear power plants through multipronged approaches with the public. In addition, public consultation on siting of future nuclear power plants is an important part of project finalisation.

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